



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: May 31, 2005 (05-23)

Contact: Joel Kangiser (360) 902-2013
Mike Louisell (360) 902-1813

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Complaints from Tacoma to Everett Pierce County Superior Court orders home detention for pest control operator

OLYMPIA – Phillip V. Williams, owner of Premium Pest Control, a firm operating in the Everett area, will serve a seven-day home detention sentence in June for continuing to operate a pest control and structural pest inspection business without a license, according to a Pierce County Superior Court order signed Friday by Judge Ronald E. Culpepper. Additionally, Williams must pay restitution totaling \$7,284 to five dissatisfied customers and perform 56 hours of community service.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), which licenses and regulates the structural pest control industry and structural pest inspectors, requested that the court take action against Williams to stop him from further illegal activities. Williams refused to get licensed by WSDA and consumers complained that he over-charged them and failed to deliver pest control services he agreed to perform.

“Consumer complaints about his tactics are definitely a concern to us,” said Joel Kangiser, WSDA’s case review officer in Olympia. “Even more importantly, we want to make sure that pesticides are applied in a safe and legal manner, especially in and around peoples’ homes.”

In addition to his Everett operation, Williams has operated in the Tacoma-Pierce County area under other business names, including Premiere Pest Control and Inspection Service and Premiere Service Group.

In 2003, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Lisa Worswick found Williams in contempt of court when he failed to appear on his appointed court date to answer charges that he was acting as a pest control consultant and a commercial pesticide applicator without being properly licensed. A bench warrant for his arrest was issued. When Williams eventually was stopped for a traffic violation, he was arrested on the warrant and sent to jail.

Judge Culpepper also ruled that Williams refrain from advertising his services and to discontinue phone service to his businesses until he is licensed. Williams advertised in several area telephone directories.

To ensure that a pesticide applicator or structural pest inspector is properly licensed, or to file a complaint, call WSDA at (877) 301-4555. To see a list on the WSDA Web site of persons issued a structural pest inspector license, go to agr.wa.gov/PestFert/LicensingEd/ListStructuralPestInspectors.htm.

###